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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|---|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 09/964,637 | 09/28/2001 | Tsuneyuki Tsuji | 1506.1011 | 1976 |
| 21171 | 7590 | 03/23/2005 | EXAMINER | |
| STAAS & HALSEY LLP SUITE 700 1201 NEW YORK AVENUE, N.W. WASHINGTON, DC 20005 | | | CARDONE, JASON D | |
| | | ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER | |
| | | 2145 | | |

DATE MAILED: 03/23/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

| | | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|--|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. | Applicant(s) | |
| | 09/964,637 | TSUJI ET AL. | |
| | Examiner | Art Unit | |
| | Jason D Cardone | 2145 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 November 2001.
 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-8 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-8 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on 21 September 2001 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>11/13/01</u> . | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

2. Applicant is reminded of the proper language and format for an abstract of the disclosure.

The abstract should be in narrative form and generally limited to a single paragraph on a separate sheet within the range of 50 to 150 words. It is important that the abstract not exceed 150 words in length since the space provided for the abstract on the computer tape used by the printer is limited. The form and legal phraseology often used in patent claims, such as "means" and "said," should be avoided. The abstract should describe the disclosure sufficiently to assist readers in deciding whether there is a need for consulting the full patent text for details.

The language should be clear and concise and should not repeat information given in the title. It should avoid using phrases which can be implied, such as, "The disclosure concerns," "The disclosure defined by this invention," "The disclosure describes," etc.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter, which the applicant regards as his invention.

4. Claims 1, 3 and 6-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

5. Claims 1, 3, 7 and 8 recites the limitation "certain user". There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim, since there are different users defined in the claims.

6. Claim 6 recites the limitation " the users". There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim, since there are different users defined in the claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

7. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

8. Claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Haken, PG Publication 2004/0008972 A1.

9. Regarding claims 1 and 6-8, Haken discloses an information browse supporting method comprising: a first search condition information setting step of setting a condition, inputted by any one of a plurality of users, for searching for information suited to this user, as first search condition information on this user [ie. user preferences in PTR, Haken, paragraph 6, 8, 9 and 41];

a second search condition information setting step of setting a condition, inputted by any one of the plurality of users in a way that specifies other user, for searching information suited to this other user, as second search condition information on this other user [ie. friends or family recommendations to the owner, Haken, paragraph 8, 34 and 38];

an information searching step of searching, from within browsing target information containing a plurality of information elements, for an information element with respect to a certain user in accordance with the first search condition information set in the first search condition information setting step and the second search condition information set in the second search condition information setting step; and an information presenting step of presenting to a certain user a piece of information corresponding to a searched result with respect to a certain user in the information searching step [ie. using the preferences of the owner and family, Haken, paragraph 34 and 37-39.

10. Regarding claim 2, Haken further discloses the second search condition information setting step involves setting the information inputted in such a form that any one of the plurality of users specifies other user to establish a mapping to setting user information indicating the user who inputted the information as the second search condition information on the other user, and the information presenting step involves presenting to a user pieces of information on the respective information elements searched with respect to this user, and presenting a piece of information indicating a setting user set as one element of mapping by way of the second search condition information with respect to the respective information elements searched based on the second search condition information [Haken, par 9 and 34].

11. Regarding claim 3, Haken further discloses a second information searching step of searching, based on the second search condition information set by a certain user with respect to other user in the second search condition information setting step, for an information element suited to this other user from the browsing target information, and checking whether or not the thus searched information element is searched by the first search condition information set in the first search condition information setting step with respect to the other user; and a second information presenting step of presenting to a certain user a piece of information corresponding to a searched result and a checked result with respect to a certain user ins aid second information searching step [Haken, par 9 and 34-37].

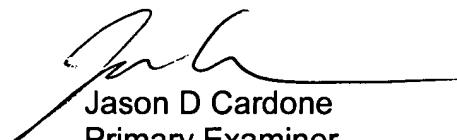
12. Regarding claim 4, Haken further discloses the first search condition information contains one or more pieces of information consisting of a keyword and a confidential flag for indicating whether or not a permission of using this keyword is given to other user, and the second information searching step involves performing the check about the searched information element by use of only the keyword having such a relationship that the confidential flag contained in the first search condition information set in the first search condition information setting step with respect to other user indicates the permission of user [Haken, par 9 and 34-37].

13. Regarding claim 5, Haken further discloses generating the second search condition information by analyzing natural language information inputted in such a way that any one of the plurality of users specifies other user [Haken, par 39-41].

Conclusion

14. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jason D Cardone whose telephone number is (571) 272-3933. The examiner can normally be reached on M.-Th. (6AM-3PM). If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Valencia Martin-Wallace can be reached on (571) 272-6159. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Jason D Cardone
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2145

March 19, 2005